



Austin
Nature & Science Center

AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Natural Selections

FALL-SPRING
2015-2016



301 Nature Center Drive Phone: (512) 974-3888

Austin, TX 78746 Fax: (512) 974-3885

Parking: 2389 Stratford Drive

www.austintexas.gov/ansc

Fall and Spring Events and Exhibits

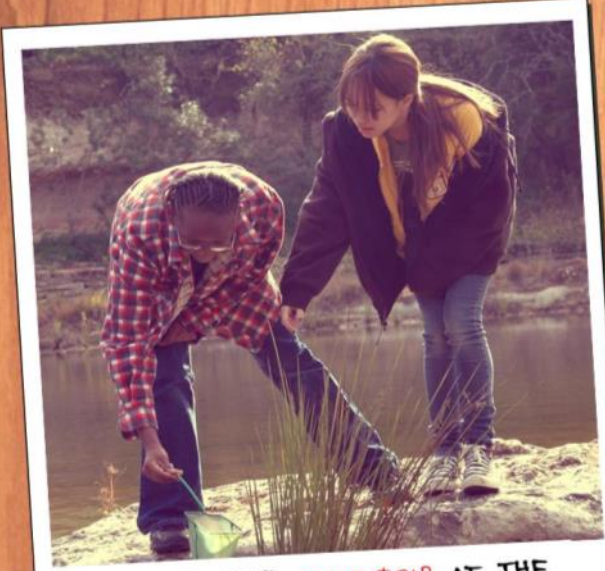
Join the Austin Nature and Science Center staff as we celebrate bugs, birds, trees, and more!
No registration is required to attend family events and all children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please visit www.austintexas.gov/ansc to learn more about field trips and scout programs.



*Celebrate
Urban Birds*

Coming soon
Spring 2016

FREE for all ages
more information online
www.austintexas.gov/ansc




BOOK YOUR NEXT FIELD TRIP AT THE
SPLASH! EXHIBIT
www.austintexas.gov/splash

SINGFIELD
NATURE CENTER

**Scout Programs
NOW AVAILABLE**

Pre-Registration Required

Registration information available online



512-974-3888
www.austintexas.gov/ansc

*fall
festival*

11am - 2pm
November 7, 2015

- Visit the ANSC Planetarium
- Encounter an owl and bat
- Learn about skulls and furs of Texas animals

Austin Nature Day

Saturday, April 23, 2016
9:00am - 12:00 pm
Free Family Event



School Holiday Camps

Ages: 5-6, 7-8 and 9-11 years

Fee: \$50/day for Austin residents

\$58/day for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Make the most of school holidays with engaging activities and outdoor explorations. Pack a lunch, a water bottle, and two healthy snacks. Participants should wear weather appropriate, comfortable clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp. **Pre-registration required!** *Camp activities subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

November 11, 2015

Animal Behavior

Join us as we learn about animal behavior! The **5-6 year old** camp will try to answer the question, "Why do they do that?". Observe resident animals to see how a day in the life of a prairie dog differs from our day!

7-8 year olds will perform experiments to determine a mealworm's favorite hiding spot. Explore the Zilker Nature Preserve and get a personal visit with ANSC resident wildlife.

A skulk of fox, a herd of deer, a sloth of bears, a team of people! The **9-11 year old** camp will learn how animal teams work together. Field trip to ANSC's challenge course.

January 4, 2016

Back in Time

What did Austin look like back in time? How different would life have been 65 thousand years ago? Explore these answers and more with the **5-6 year old** camp.

Try your hand at the ancient skill of flint knapping. The **7-8 year old** camp will learn to make stone tools just like our human ancestors.

Have you ever wondered what came before the bow and arrow? Learn a centuries-old skill in an introduction to archery and the atlatl. The **9-11 year old camp** will practice safety loading, shooting, and retrieving arrows using a compound bow.

February 15, 2016

Art in Nature

Hike and observe patterns in nature. Field trip to Zilker Botanical Gardens will allow **5-6 year old** campers to experience a wild habitat and compare it to a cultivated garden.

Discover the interaction between man made art and the natural world. The **7-8 year old** camp will take a field trip to Laguna Gloria to experience art in nature.

Capture the beauty of nature in the **9-11 year old** photography camp. Experiment with different photography techniques to capture moving animals and plants up close. Campers must provide their own digital camera.



School Holiday Camps	November 11, 2015 Animal Behavior	January 4, 2016 Back in Time	February 15, 2016 Art in Nature
5-6 years	203816 01	203821 01	203822 01
7-8 years	203816 02	203821 02	203822 02
9-11 years	203816 03	203821 03	203822 03

Winter Break Camp 2015

Join us this December for Winter Break Camp. Plan to have fun no matter what the weather brings. Bundle up (wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp) and get ready for adventure! Make sure to bring a healthy lunch, two snacks, and a water bottle each day. **Pre-registration required!** *Camp activities subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

Ages: 5-6, 7-8 and 9-11 years

Fee: \$50/day for Austin residents

\$58/day for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Camps for Ages 5-6

Perfect Pollination

Visit our resident bee colony and learn how bees help make our food. Create a perfect pollinator and take your creation on an adventure. Field trip to Zilker Botanical Gardens.

Wonderful Wildlife

Hop, soar, and wiggle over to meet resident wildlife to learn why they are just so wonderful. Explore the preserve and discover clues that animals have left behind.

Awesome Astronomy

Hear stories from around the world in ANSC's inflatable planetarium and create your own constellations that will send you into orbit!

Camps for Ages 7-8

Space!

Travel through the Milky Way, make a lunar lander, and learn about space from our science specialist. Infinite possibilities await!

What's the Buzz?

What do bees do in the winter? How do flies see the world? Be like a bee that comes back to the hive to tell others of a nectar treasure; use GPS units to find a hidden geocache.

Animals in Nature

Sneak a peak into the world of animals in nature. Look for nests high in a tree or hidden under a rock. Field trip to Mayfield Park.

Camps for Ages 9-11

Native Habitats

Meet ANSC native resident wildlife up-close. Glimpse what Austin was like many years ago by learning what Native Americans hunted. Try your hand at archery during a field trip to the ANSC archery range.

Unworldly

See what life looks like for an astronaut and make your own space craft. View our ever-expanding universe through new eyes after this stellar camp. Field trip to ANSC challenge course.

Taking Flight

Do you wonder what it's like to have wings? Discover what it takes to fly, how bees and birds build their homes, and how humans made use of flight. Field trip to Reimer's Ranch.



Winter Break	December 21, 2015	December 22, 2015	December 23, 2015
Ages	Theme / Code	Theme / Code	Theme / Code
5-6 years	Perfect Pollination 203817 01	Wonderful Wildlife 203818 01	Awesome Astronomy 203819 01
7-8 years	Space! 203817 02	What's the Buzz 203818 02	Animals in Nature 203819 02
9-11 years	Native Habitats 203817 03	Unworldly 203818 03	Taking Flight 203819 03

SPRING

Ages: 5-6, 7-8 and 9-11 years

Fee: \$250/week for Austin residents

\$294/week for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Spring Break Camp - March 14-18, 2016

Get the most out of your Spring Break! Sign up for a week-long camp at ANSC. Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp and get ready for adventure. Make sure to bring a healthy lunch, two snacks, and a water bottle each day. **Pre-registration required!** *Camp activities subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

Wild about Wildlife

Ages 5-6

Discover unique characteristics that distinguish mammals, reptiles, birds, and insects from one another. See and touch some of your favorite critter friends when they visit your classroom. Have the eyes of an owl and the ears of a fox while you hike in the ANSC preserve and explore the relationships between animals and plants in an urban environment. Discover ancient animals that lived at the time of dinosaurs at the Dino-pit.



Circle of Life

Ages 7-8

Investigate how living things, great and small, play a roll in keeping the world's ecosystem in balance. Touch a snake and glimpse an owl while learning how they help to keep our world healthy. Examine how plants, animals, and even humans depend on one another for survival. Visit the ephemeral pond to experience an ever changing habitat. Discover the important job insects do to keep our flowers, fruits, and vegetables alive. Field trip to the Austin Zoo.



Exploring Austin

Ages 9-11

Get ready for adventure! Enjoy your week off from school with lots of time spent in the great outdoors. Go outside and engage in uniquely Austin adventures. From climbing at Milton Reimer's Ranch Travis County Park to biking on Lady Bird Lake trail - it's going to be a great week! All equipment will be provided. Campers must be able to ride a bike with their camp group for three miles without adult assistance.



Ages	Theme / Code
5-6 years	Wild about Wildlife 203823 01
7-8 years	Circle of Life 203823 02
9-11 years	Exploring Austin 203823 03

Birthday Parties & Adventure Experiences

Birthday Parties include a 45-minute presentation and the use of a party room with tables and chairs. Available on select Saturdays 10:00AM - 12:00PM or 1:00PM - 3:00PM.

Please call the registrar at 512-974-3888 to schedule a party. Birthday party rooms must be cleaned and vacated at the end of the two hour period. Birthday party participants are welcome and encouraged to visit ANSC exhibits and grounds. ANSC is open until 5:00PM daily.

Birthday parties are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. Birthday party registration is completed when payment is received in full.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Ages: 4-8 years Time: 2 hours

Fee: \$191.25 for Austin residents/\$225 for non-Austin residents
15 children maximum

WILDLIFE

Get an up-close and personal visit with ANSC resident wildlife - even touch a turtle's shell - during this exciting wildlife program.

DINOSAUR

Uncover the history of dinosaurs and fossils and explore the Dino Pit exhibit while digging for fossils like a paleontologist.

PLANETARIUM

Be a star on your birthday and explore the legends behind the constellations in the ANSC inflatable planetarium.

Adventure Experiences include all the equipment for your caving or climbing excursion and two experienced staff guides. One adult must accompany the group. Available on a limited number of Saturday mornings. Please call the registrar at 512-974-3888 to learn more.

ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE

Ages: 9-12 years Time: 3-4 hours, dependent on adventure

Fee: \$240 for Austin residents / \$284 for non-Austin residents
12 participants maximum

Experienced staff lead the group of young adventurers on a caving or climbing trip in the Austin area. Equipment provided.
One adult must accompany each group.

Overview of Registration Process

Please visit www.austintexas.gov/page/online-registration for more details.

1. First, determine if you already have a customer household account created. If you have participated in Parks and Recreation programs before, you may already have an account. If the system associates a current account with your contact information, you may be prompted to create a new password and username.
2. Go to the Austin Parks and Recreation online registration website: www.austintexas.gov/parksregister.
3. Browse the program listings.
4. Register for your desired program(s).
5. **Pay in full with a credit card.**
6. Your receipt will be sent to the email address you provided on your account information along with important program information. Please check your spam folder.
7. Should you need to change or cancel the program for which you are registered, contact ANSC's registration office to make the request. Please review the program registration policies regarding refunds, transfers, and other important registration and participation information.

Austin Nature & Science Center

Registration Information and Policies

The Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC) is excited to offer a wide variety of programs for the entire family. The following instructions will help facilitate a smoother registration experience:

Registration - All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. Online, fax, mail and walk-in registrations are being accepted at ANSC. Online registration is available 24 hours per day; walk-in, fax-in and mail-in registration is available during ANSC's regular business hours. Registrations forms for walk-in, fax-in, or mail-in can be found at www.austintexas.gov/ansc. Please complete one registration form per participant.

Online registration is strongly encouraged. Customers may review online results immediately as online registration is completed in real time. Walk-in, fax-in and mail-in registration will only be completed as they are entered into the system by staff, which will take longer.

Directly access the Austin Parks and Recreation registration website at www.austintexas.gov/parksregister, or visit ANSC's website and use the "online registration" link. For information on how to register online and set up an account please go to www.austintexas.gov/page/online-registration. If you need additional assistance you may also call ANSC front desk staff at 512-974-3888.

To keep your personal information safe, you will create or update your user account, which is only accessible by you. If you don't know your password or username, you can request a new one. Payments are completed through a credit card processing vendor to protect customers' privacy and security. Neither the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, nor the software vendor retains credit card information.

Visit or call the ANSC front desk to request a registration form or go to www.austintexas.gov/ansc to print a copy. Then fax, mail, or submit the form in person. ANSC does not accept registration by email due to safety concerns. The completed registration form will be entered into the system at the earliest convenience of front desk staff. Therefore, you will not know your registration status until you receive either a confirmation email or an email placing you on a waiting list. No spaces will be held for fax-in, mail-in or walk-in registration submissions. Please check your email, including your spam folder. If you have not received an email, staff has yet to input your registration form.

Confirmation - Confirmation is sent by mail or email upon receipt of program fees. Please allow up to three weeks for confirmation.

Austin Resident and non-Austin Resident Program Fees - The City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department's fee schedule for programs now consists of two levels; one for residents of Austin and one for non-Austin residents. The registration office can provide a list of zip codes used to determine residency for the purpose of Parks and Recreation Department program registration.

Minimum Registration - The ANSC reserves the right to cancel any class that does not meet the minimum number of required participants four days prior to the class date. If this occurs, a full refund will be given.

Cancellation - Please notify ANSC in writing to cancel a registration **7 days prior to the first day of the program to receive a refund**. All refunds require a \$35 processing fee to be assessed. If the program fee is less than \$35, no refund will be given. Refunds are issued to the charging credit card. If payment was made by check, the City of Austin will issue and mail a check within 4-6 weeks. Fees for programs cancelled by ANSC are returned in full without assessing the processing fee. All field trips are subject to cancellation or substitution.

Scholarships - The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) is extending financial assistance to qualified families of youth participants interested in attending recreation programs. To qualify for assistance, youth participants must 1) reside in the city of Austin and 2) receive or be eligible to receive reduced or free lunches in their school district. Applicants must complete the Financial Assistance Application for Youth Recreation Programs. This application can be found on the PARC website at www.austintexas.gov/parcfinaid.

The Austin Nature & Science Center (ANSC) was established in 1960 and is part of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Its mission is to provide hands-on educational exhibits and recreational activities that increase awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. Located in west Zilker Park, adjacent to the Zilker Nature Preserve, the site offers indoor and outdoor exhibits that are free to the public seven days a week. ANSC provides environmental science education programs to schools and the community including field trips for local and surrounding school districts as well as homeschool, scouting, and outreach programs. The Center hosts community programs, family events, environmentally-focused camps, and adventure programs. ANSC proudly houses Nature's Way Preschool and is home to over 50 resident wildlife. ANSC strives to reach communities throughout Austin.

Grounds and exhibits are open 7 days a week. Programs require pre-registration.

Admission to the site is FREE

Donations Accepted

Monday through Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday 12 PM - 5 PM

Call 512-974-3888 or visit us on the web at www.austintexas.gov/ansc

Meet Quilber!



Quilber is a North American porcupine. He is native to Texas. His favorite food is sweet potatoes! In the fall he is very active around sunset; it is his breeding season so he becomes very curious!

North American Porcupines:

- Primarily live in west Texas, but they range from the Panhandle to the Hill Country
- Are expert tree climbers
- Are herbivores; they eat low-growing plants
- Prefer to live alone as adults
- Like to talk to themselves in murmurs and mumbles
- Have a heavy underfur that keeps them warm in the winter and they shed in the summer
- Have quills which are modified hair. Porcupines don't throw their quills, but push them into a potential threat while backing up and shaking their tail.
- Have the scientific name, *Erethizon dorsatum*, meaning "the irritable back". Quite fitting for our prickly friend!

Mayor and City Council Members

Mayor Steve Adler
 Council Member Ora Houston
 Council Member Delia Garza
 Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria
 Council Member Gregorio "Greg" Casar
 Council Member Ann Kitchen
 Council Member Don Zimmerman
 Council Member Leslie Pool
 Council Member Ellen Troxclair
 Council Member Kathie Tovo
 Council Member Sheri Gallo

City Managers Office

Marc Ott, City Manager

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 Michael Casias, Board Member
 Rick Cofer, Board Member
 Tom Donovan, Board Member
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 Pat Wimberly, Board Member

Parks and Recreation Department

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
 Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Assistant Director
 Marty Stump, Assistant Director
 Cora D. Wright, Assistant Director

Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

The purpose of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect, and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin Community.

Children's programs supervised by Parks and Recreation Department and requiring enrollment/registration in order to participate are not licensed by the state, but follow local standards of care as adopted by the City of Austin Ordinance No. 020131-65. A copy of the ordinance is available and posted at each site.

Nature's Way Preschool is licensed by the State of Texas as a child care facility.

Persons with Disabilities - The City of Austin is committed to complying with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to participate in Austin Nature & Science Center programs. You may request special accommodations to facilitate participation and inclusion in these programs. Reasonable modifications and equal access will be provided upon request. Call 512-974-3888.